



**National Park Service**  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**

Lava Beds National  
Monument

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## **Lava Beds National Monument News Release**

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For Immediate Release

Contact: Kale Bowling-Schaff, 530-667-8112

### **Lava Beds Announces Summer Interpretive Programs**

Lava Beds National Monument Superintendent Dave Kruse is pleased to announce the return of summer interpretive programming beginning Memorial Day weekend. The Monument's Visitor Center will be open extended hours from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend to better serve park visitors. The campground at Lava Beds also remains open all year, and individual campsites are available on a first-come, first-served basis. The campground typically fills on holiday weekends, so campers are encouraged to arrive early.

Ranger guided cave tours will depart daily from the Visitor Center at 3:00 PM between Friday, May 25th and Monday, May 28th. Evening programs in the campground amphitheater will also be shown at 9:00 PM Friday through Sunday over the holiday weekend. Similar programming will be offered on subsequent weekends, and daily programs begin on Saturday, June 19th.

Guided cave tours range in difficulty from easy walks to challenging excursions. Whether planning to cave with a ranger or explore on your own, visitors should be prepared to "Cave Safely, Cave Softly" with long pants, long-sleeved shirts, closed-toed shoes, head protection, and a flashlight for each person. Flashlights may be borrowed from the Visitor Center during open hours, and bump hats are available for sale. Gloves, kneepads, and maps are also recommended for the Monument's more difficult caves.

Evening programs in the campground amphitheater usually consist of a 45-minute slide program, and provide campers with an in-depth look at the diverse human and natural history of Lava Beds. Additionally, short interpretive talks or ranger guided walks will be offered many summer mornings. Join a ranger for a short talk near the Visitor Center or in Mushpot Cave, or a short guided hike exploring the rich natural and cultural "above ground" environment.

Lava Beds National Monument is also pleased to offer a Junior Ranger badge to children ages five through thirteen who complete a workbook available at the Visitor Center. Young people can also earn a Junior Firefighter award by hiking to the Schonchin Butte Fire Lookout and completing activities with the lookout ranger.

A weekly schedule of interpretive program topics and locations is available at the Lava Beds Visitor Center, or by calling 530-667-8113. Ranger guided programs will be offered through Labor Day.

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